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5 July 1972

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Conversation with Ed Braswell, Chief Counsel, Senate
Armed Services Committee, re Laos Ceiling for
Fiscal Year 1973

1. Today Mr. Maury and I talked with Ed Braswell and asked him about Committee action on the Laos ceiling. Braswell said the Committee has completed its markup on the bill and has settled on a ceiling of [REDACTED] for expenditures in Laos including funds [REDACTED]. He said this was done in order to avoid a floor fight with Senator Symington who would not accept the [REDACTED] figure without debating it on the floor.

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2. Braswell said DOD had mentioned to him that there was some slippage in the [REDACTED] but Braswell is irritated with DOD for not giving him any of the details on this. He emphasized he had no quarrel with the Agency on this. Later on he mentioned that DOD had indicated to the Committee staff, on a confidential basis, that a figure of [REDACTED] would be quite acceptable.

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3. I reported the above to [REDACTED] who said it was fairly obvious that DOD representatives have passed on to the Committee the substance of conversations between the Agency and themselves. These discussions have resulted in the conclusion that the [REDACTED] will not reach the [REDACTED] level contemplated for FY 1973 and will probably not go beyond [REDACTED], thus cutting the programmed cost of [REDACTED] by approximately one-third.

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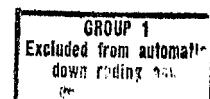
Deputy Legislative Counsel

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